

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND PURCHASING
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3

Members: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1
Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2
Mr. Charles E. Davis, District No. 4
Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, District No. 5
Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., District No. 7
Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., District No. 8
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

The COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND PURCHASING, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, met on Monday, February 26, 2001, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, S. C., at 6:59 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3, Chairman; Mr. Milton Farley, Councilmember District No. 1; Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, Councilmember District No. 2; Mr. Charles E. Davis, Councilmember District No. 4; Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, Councilmember District No. 5; Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Councilmember District No. 6; Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Councilmember District No. 7; Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., Councilmember District No. 8; Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr. Supervisor ex officio; and Mr. D. Mark Stokes, County Attorney.

The requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been complied with by posting the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting of Berkeley County Council at the entrance to the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and a copy of such notice was mailed to all Councilmembers and the News media.

Councilmember Crosby called the Committee to order and stated on the agenda this evening was Mr. Frank Carson, PE, County Engineer and Public Works Director, Re: Purchase of used Bomag Recycler/Stabilizer.

Mr. Carson stated the Committee has a memo dated February 20 that explains the proposed purchase, which is a used machine. They had been checking with the distributors in the Southeast and this one was brought to their attention at a very good price. Since this is out of the normal budget cycle, they would propose to use the \$30,000 they previously intended to use to repair the dragline, which is an infrequently used item. He stated they would transfer \$30,000 for the initial payment and would need to authorize the Procurement Director to obtain Lease Purchase Financing through quotation. They had not been able to get quotes on the financing but the leasing agent who does a lot of work with A. E. Finley gave them an interest rate of 5.75%, which would be two additional lease payments in addition to the \$30,000. Mr. Carson stated at the end of this year they would have completed a \$74,000 lease purchase on other equipment that won't come up next year.

Councilmember Vaughn asked how important is it that they make this decision tonight; would it be sold to somebody else? Mr. Carson stated they are dealing with a salesman who says that if it's not on the books by the end of February, he had a contractor lined up for it. The response was, "if it works out, fine, if it doesn't, fine." Councilmember Vaughn stated there is a lot of maintenance associated with this type machine; are they taking that into consideration? The next factor is how familiar are they with this process. Mr. Carson stated the Roads & Bridges Manager, Mr. Beauchemin, had used this technology and machine in Florida on a lot of the roads. They had contacted several of the contractors and attended a couple of workshops with lime suppliers and some of the other companies that do chemical work. Mr. Carson stated the alternative to doing this is to tear up asphalt, put down new asphalt, put down new rock, and they should get a lot of savings out of reusing these materials, not to mention the improved service life of the roads. It is expensive--Menzi Mucks are expensive, but there are no alternatives to some things; the alternative to this is new construction. Councilmember Vaughn stated he agrees with the process but his concern is the maintenance of the machine, which is very intensive. There must be people who could operate the machine and are aware of the intensive maintenance. He thinks stripping it and hauling off the asphalt is very expensive and is a good way to go; however, he is concerned whether we can handle what we are taking on.

Supervisor Rozier stated it's not just the asphalt but also the dirt roads. When we lose the rocks, the rocks go down into the dirt roads. This machine would bring the rocks up, mix it with the surface, and a chemical would be mixed with that, which stabilizes the dirt roads, cuts down dust, etc. and this machine would properly apply that. He stated there is a real problem with dirt roads; in fact, they would scrape the roads and in almost no time it turns into a washboard again. This brings that subsurface back up and stabilizes it. Councilmember Vaughn stated his company uses this process of lime stabilization and his concern is making sure that they know what they are getting in to. He stated we used to have a Tub Grinder in the County. Mr. Carson stated he was exactly right and this is a little out of the ordinary from the way they normally do things in Roads in Bridges. Normally, they would hire a contractor to work with them and to familiarize them with the process. The unfortunate thing in this case is there aren't a lot of contractors doing this that they could turn to. He stated they attended workshops in Columbia three years ago to look at similar technology. This is an inexpensive machine compared to the \$600,000 machines they were trying to sell Banks and Sanders. Councilmember Vaughn stated the process at the Landfill of grinding the timber was a good idea. The problem was that BCW&SA bought a Tub Grinder that wasn't capable of handling the load. He stated he didn't want to see them make the same mistake twice. Although it's a \$100,000 to \$200,000 machine it has to go to the depth if it's going to be used on existing roads. Councilmember Vaughn stated it could be contracted outside, and as he told Marc Hehn it may be time for the County to get back into that.

Supervisor Rozier stated the main reason the Tub Grinder was bought was to grind pallets at the Landfill, and DHEC came out and wouldn't allow them to use the pallets for mulch because of their concern about chemical spills on the pallets. He stated Councilmember Vaughn is absolutely right, they should not have bought the Tub Grinder but it was bought mainly for pallets and that fell through. Their thought was the need for this machine and the opportunity to get it for half the price. With this other piece of equipment being paid off they would have the

finances available to purchase the Bomag Stabilizer. Supervisor Rozier stated this machine is needed to do work on dirt roads as well as paved roads, particularly in areas like Sangaree.

Councilmember Spooner asked what goes wrong with this type of equipment? Councilmember Vaughn stated it's like a tiller; it tills up the soil and goes to a depth that mixes the lime and asphalt, stabilizes the soil and compacts it as hard as concrete. Councilmember Spooner asked what messes up on it? Councilmember Vaughn stated when the lime is put down you have to wear a mask and protective gear. If the lime were not cleaned off, it could cause a lot of damage. He stated the maintenance is very high and he personally thinks that the correct route would be to contract it out for six months to a year. The machine would probably work on dirt roads; however, he doesn't know whether it would work on existing roads because he doesn't have enough information on that. It would be the same as buying a \$100,000 Tub Grinder that would chew up pallets and limbs but won't eat the stumps. Mr. Carson stated we don't have Interstate highways and the problem is that the subdivision streets were built when there was no control. An inch of asphalt as specified with six inches of rock is only seven inches and that would be excellent. He stated they had spoken with their consultants to find out where the contractors were who bid on this work if it's offered for bid. They found that there was one in Summerville who was just getting started; and one in Florence, Greenville, and Richland. If they were to rent a machine it would be \$11,000 a month. So, if they contract it's not going to be competitive, which is why Banks didn't buy the other machine, and why Sanders and the other big contractors are in the business to sell asphalt. This is a way to avoid selling asphalt. Councilmember Vaughn stated they are also in the business to sell dirt and it's hard to take that business from them. If the machine only goes an inch and a half---Mr. Carson stated he said that's all it would have to go for the roads they are talking about; it could go much deeper than that. Supervisor Rozier stated Mr. Carson is very kind to say that we have an inch and a half of asphalt and six inches of rocks on most of these roads, "I can take you to my desk drawer and show you a quarter of an inch of asphalt with no rocks." Councilmember Vaughn stated that if you are going to do lime stabilization you need some dirt, and if it's only going seven inches deep it won't hit the dirt.

Councilmember Davis moved to approve; seconded by Councilmember Mims; and passed by voice vote of the Committee.

Councilmember Vaughn moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilmember Spooner; and passed by voice vote of the Committee.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

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There will be a Special Meeting of the COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND PURCHASING, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, on Monday February 26, 2001, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, S. C., following the meeting of the Committee on Planning & Development, the Committee on Land Use, and Public Hearings, scheduled to begin at 6:45 p.m.

AGENDA

- A. Frank Carson, PE, County Engineer and Public Works Director: Re:
Purchase of used Bomag Recycler/Stabilizer.

February 21, 2001
S/Barbara B. Austin
Clerk of County Council